

LOCAL I.S. NEWS

for department store workers

VOL 2, NO. 4

264

OCTOBER 1, 1950

STEWARDS DEMAND WAGE INCREASES NOW



President Sam Kovenetsky brought forth a vigorous round of applause from close to 300 Shop Stewards when he denounced the "milk barons, the meat barons, the department store barons" and all other profiteers as "flag waving phonies who wave the flag only in

order to hide behind it." Said the Local's President, "We have always hoped for lasting peace. We signed our contract with the company in good faith, but that agreement is no longer valid because Macy's and other industrialists are taking advantage of the war in an effort to make

(Continued on page 2)

We, and many others say, Don't miss the October 14th Welfare Board Dance



Catherine Brown



June De Negall



Richard Vaughan



Jean Segreto



Mollie Grater

Members Praise 1-S Blood Bank; Union Asks More As Reserves Dwindle

How much is your life worth? How much would you spend to keep well and how much would you spend to stay alive in an emergency? Experience has proved that you can't measure the worth of life in terms of dollars and cents.

Experience has also proved that workers with small savings have exhausted their slim reserves and gone into debt for huge amounts of money in order to pay doctor and hospital bills.

One of the most expensive items to show up on many such bills was for *blood* — blood that made the difference between life and death. Blood that was needed fast, with no questions asked. And when blood was needed there were no shortcuts — no half-way measures. And blood costs anywhere from \$20 to \$40 a pint.

The Union's Job

Each year hundreds of members of Local 1-S found themselves being bled white financially to meet such unforeseen expenses, either for themselves personally, or for a member of their immediate family.

Local 1-S
BLOOD BANK CALL
for HERALD SQUARE
Wednesday, October 11th
Friday, October 20th
See Your Shop Steward
SIGN YOUR PLEDGE SHEET TODAY!

Each year the Union office received scores of calls pleading for help in finding donors quickly. Each year the Welfare Board was appealed to for help in meeting the financial obligations that followed such emergencies.

Local 1-S responded to each of those appeals and did all it could to assist. But too often the Union could not do all that was needed. Faced with the needs of its members and the harshly unpleasant facts of hospital life, the Union rolled up its sleeves and went to work to negotiate a health and hospital plan and then to organize a Blood Bank.

Members Say Thanks

From members on every floor and in every store covered by Local 1-S have come heartfelt messages of thanks for aid given and lives saved. From William Wall-

stedt, husband of a Local 1-S member, "... I wish to express to the Union and your associates in the Blood Bank, my very sincere thanks for the generous donation of blood at a time when my life was indeed rapidly ebbing. Many, many thanks!" From Katherine Francis, "I wish to express my deepest gratitude for the help I received during my husband's serious illness. He was one of the first patients to receive blood from the Blood Bank. The prompt attention given his need was instrumental in saving his life. I wish to thank my co-workers for making this possible."

From Jack Paritz, "... the five pints of blood I received from the Blood Bank were instrumental in my recovery. I will never forget that this attention was made possible through the efforts of Local 1-S and the blood donations of my fellow union members."

Last February, in answer to the Union's first appeal more than 500 pints flowed into the Bank. In the seven months that have passed more than 400 pints have been re-

leased to meet the unexpected emergencies that could happen to anyone.

In a desperate fight for life one member drew on the bank for fourteen pints. Put a dollar sign on it? If that member had had to pay for the blood he needed it would have cost him approximately \$520! You would find the money if you *had* to, but could you *afford* it?

Be safe! Donate one pint of blood to the Blood Bank and KNOW that if an emergency need arises you are FULLY protected!

Give, to safeguard yourself and those you love.

The hospital will determine if you are physically able to donate. If you are under 18 years of age you must have the written consent of your parents.

Let nothing stand in your way!

LETTERS to the EDITOR

To The Editor:

Just a short note to thank you in my humble way for the blood donated to my husband who spent more than eight weeks in Lebanon Hospital and had three operations. He seems a little better now. I received a check for \$150 towards my husband's operation, which I think was wonderful. Thank God for such a wonderful system.

Very sincerely,
Helen Higgins

To The Editor:

Thank you so much for all your help during the time of my daughter's illness. That was a time I was thankful we have a Union doing all it could to get the necessary blood donors and to get my son home in time. Thanks so very much.

Mrs. E. Collins

**LENDING
LIBRARY**
OPENS MONDAY, OCT. 9
Hours: 11-1 — 5-7
Closed Sat., Sun. &
Holidays

Union Wins Another Equal Pay Fight

Local 1-S launched another successful assault on management's "double standard" when it challenged the awarding of hard-won inequality pay to the men and not the women of the Glassware (117) Department.

The Union based its claim on the fact that the women of the department do the same work as the men and therefore are entitled to the same wage. The victory adds up to a raise of \$3.75 a week, for men and women alike, all the way back to February 1st.

Said Vice President Elizabeth Hammond, "this case is only the most recent proof that the company will cling to the double standard for as long as possible, wherever they are able. Local 1-S has

already won many of its fights for equal pay for equal work. We will continue to fight for that principle until it is a fact in every department throughout the entire store."

Stewards Demand...

(Continued from page 1)

super-profits. We must tell Macy's that the picture has changed — that we are willing to allow wages to remain where they are only if prices are rolled back to where they were in June.

"If the robber barons insist on profits squeezed out of the people," Mr. Kovenetsky continued, "We will insist and fight for the right of the people to survive. We will make Macy's regret their flag waving with one hand and their blue pencil mark-ups with the other!"

Assails Congressional Act

Turning his attention to the national scene, President Kovenetsky said, "As important as dollars and cents is freedom itself. What recently happened in the Congress concerns all of us. I am not defending the Communists, but I do defend freedom. The McCarran



Bill is supposedly aimed at the Communists, but as trade unionists we must be alert to the possibilities of our being next. I say that if they start building concentration camps those camps will have to be big enough for all of us — trade unionist, Jew, Catholic, Protestant and all others who believe in, and will continue to fight for freedom.

"Each of us must examine the voting records of our Congressmen. The record on higher income taxes for workers and no excess profits tax for big business. The record on rent control and price control and on the McCarran Act itself.

"Don't vote for a man just because you like his name," the President urged. "Vote for a man who has the courage, even in the face of possible defeat, to stand up and fight for the people."

Stewards Discuss

Turning the floor over to the assembled Stewards for discussion of the morning's reports, Mr. Ko-

venetsky declared, "Many workers have asked us what we plan to do. It is now up to you, the Shop Stewards, to discuss our plan. This is not, and cannot be, a fight of the officers alone, or the officers and the Executive Board and the Stewards. This fight must be waged by the entire membership of our Union. You will give us leadership and you will rally the people in the departments around the program you shape here today.

Steward after steward rose to echo and amplify the words of the President. Jamaica representative Vincent Muscato touched off a spontaneous demonstration of hand clapping when he demanded that "we immediately place before management our request for a \$5 a week cost of living increase."

Many others took the mike to speak of hardships caused by the skyrocketing of prices and to express fear for their liberties now threatened by the McCarran Bill. Telegram To Macy President

The Shop Stewards unanimously approved a suggestion that a telegram be sent to Macy President Richard Weil in the name of all duly elected Stewards demanding that the company agree to immediate negotiation of a cost of living increase.

Also approved was a proposal that the Stewards act as an advisory body to a negotiating committee which was selected at a special meeting of the Executive Board on the day following the conference.

Other Activities

To bring to the Stewards detailed information about other Union activities a series of short reports followed the President's report.

Vice President Elizabeth Hammond presented facts, figures and human interest stories about the workings of the Local's Health Plan and Blood Bank and urged that the Stewards bring the facts to the members in the departments so that they would fully appreciate the importance of their full support.

Reports from Dance Committee Chairman Tony Puca, Credit Union Treasurer Max Wald, Medical Plan representatives Drs. Essenson and Kelsen and Union Education Director Dick Pastor underscored the importance of full participation in the many and varied aspects of the Local's program.

Vice President George Gurian opened the meeting by calling attention to the fact that all gains have been secured only through the active participation of the Stewards. Mr. Gurian was chairman of the entire session.

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The Welfare Fund aids sick and needy Union members. Don't let them down!



Phyllis Bicksilver



Bill Kenny



Lillian Roveto



Lillian De Sandis



Margaret Graham

LOCAL 1-S NEWS

Published Twice Monthly by
 LOCAL 1-S, UNITED RETAIL WORKERS, UNAFFILIATED
 125 West 33rd Street New York 1, N.Y.
 President: Sam Kovenetsky
 1st Vice Pres.: George Gurian — 2nd Vice Pres.: Elizabeth Hammond
 Editorial Board
 Dorothy De Mauriac Carl Lutz William Roschak
 Editor: Dick Pastor

A Successful Conference

Meetings of Shop Stewards are always serious affairs. Last week's all-day gathering was a particularly earnest one in the light of experiences of the recent past and in the shadow of things to come.

Within the last few weeks Union members in two departments have been compelled to walk off the floor before they secured satisfactory adjustment of minor grievances. Workers were moved to action because they were mindful of the fact that President Sam Kovenetsky had said, "If we have enough stoppages we can be sure that top management will wake up and take whatever measures it must to assure obedience from their executives. We must make correct respect for our Union and the contract the only key to volume, since volume is the only language the company really understands."

The unity and the strength demonstrated by these actions symbolizes the unity and the strength of our entire Union. But also revealed is the fact that the company continues to poke and probe in the hope of finding a soft spot in our armor. One important aim of the Shop Stewards Conference was to alert all departments to this continuing danger and to guarantee that the company will be defeated in all its efforts to ignore or get around the contract and the Union members protected by it.

The Stewards were cheered when Mr. Kovenetsky told them that the elected leaders of Local 1-S had no intention of sitting by and watching hard won gains disappear in the swirl of rising prices. The President's promise that the threat to our living standards would be met and dealt with in the near future provided the Stewards with what encouragement they needed to "go back to the store and enforce the contract!"

The Steward stands as the elected representative of the men and women with whom he or she works day after day. The people have placed much of the responsibility for their welfare in the hands of their Steward. But having designated their spokesman is only the first of many important steps. The most successful defenders of their rights give their Stewards full support in the working out of problems and always present to management a solid front which most clearly reflects their unity of purpose. Given such support, the Steward cannot fail!

The recently concluded conference marks the beginning of a new chapter in the life of our Union. The meeting gave us the opportunity to plot our new course and again provided the assurance that when we move we will move together. We know now, as a result of the conference, that when we speak we all speak of basically the same things.

The Stewards, in the daily course of performing their varied duties, will pass along to their co-workers the meat of their day's discussions. If they also convey some of the enthusiasm generated by the conference we can be certain that the entire membership will stand ready and fully armed for the struggles which may lie ahead.

We congratulate the Stewards for their high sense of duty. We congratulate the entire membership for the wisdom shown in the election of their departmental representatives. The strength of the Union is a credit to both.

The Inquiring Photographer

THE QUESTION: What do you think is the main value of a Steward Conference?

VELMA BAZIL — J3

This is the first Steward Conference I've ever attended and I think it is wonderful. From Pres. Kovenetsky's speech we get a clear idea of what can be accomplished with the help of the Stewards. We learn the important things to take back to the members, which we don't otherwise get. Besides, it's great just to get together.

ISRAEL COHEN — W12

These meetings are very important. They are educational and informative. We hear the facts and activities of the Union which we don't fully get in the branch stores. It provides us with an excellent way of discussing union matters. And such discussion is beneficial to all.

RICHARD SCHIFF — 88 Dept.

By getting to know the problems of others we get to know our own better. The fellowship a conference produces gives us strength. It also gives us a broad picture of what the Union is doing and helps us solve our problems. It also makes us aware of our strength in relation to our executives.

ROSE POLOGE
21 Mfg. (Fitter)

One of the big things is that we get together. It helps us re-discover the details of what our duties are and should be. Individually we can't see our officers as often as we would like, but this gives us a chance to hear their opinions and benefit by their experience. I've attended all the conferences to date and look forward to many more.

CONGRESSMAN DRIPP

BY YOMEN



"He's trying to think of a way to make 'prioritizing' sound like a nice word."

Rheumatic Fever

By the Cardiologist of the Associated Physicians' Medical Group

It was pointed out in the last issue of *Local 1-S News* that rheumatic fever is a prevalent disease, the signs and symptoms of which vary greatly from patient to patient. It is a medical problem of the first importance because it so often cripples the heart, especially in the young. We do not fully know the cause of the disease and we have no specific cure for it. We do know that it is most likely to attack children of underprivileged homes, who are poorly clothed, nourished, and sheltered (though the middle-class and well-to-do are no means immune). A principal factor in the prevention of rheumatic fever, therefore, must be a social and economic one — an attack on poverty itself. We present here certain rules for the patient after he has recovered from an attack of rheumatic fever:

1. Avoid the conditions that may cause new infections. Chief among these are colds, sore throat, and tonsillitis. These may best be prevented or lessened by avoiding undue fatigue and exposure to cold and dampness, keeping away from persons who have colds and from crowds when colds are prevalent. If you should contract colds or sore throat, it is wisest to take them more seriously than other people do, and to rest and even to remain in bed until recovery. Occasionally, new attacks of rheumatic fever follow over-exposure to the sun, causing severe sunburn. It is best to take increasing doses of sunlight, securing a tan rather than a burn.

2. The general rules of hygiene are especially important for you. Get plenty of good food, sleep, and relaxation. Exercise is desirable, but not an excess. Quit before breathlessness and exhaustion set in. If considerable heart

damage is present, exercise may have to be restricted more, but even then you can usually exercise if you stop before becoming fatigued. The amount of exercise can be controlled better in walking, golf, and even swimming than in competitive sports like football, handball, hockey, and tennis, and so the former are preferable for persons whose activity must be limited.

3. Infections and particularly extractions of the teeth may sometimes cause bacteria to settle and grow on the injured heart valves, producing serious illness. It is wise to take particular care of your teeth, visiting the dentist every six months so that minor trouble can be detected and treated and extensive dental work avoided. Before any major treatment is given, especially extraction of teeth, it is desirable to have

(Continued on page 4)

Have fun while you are doing good. Buy your tickets now for a gala evening



Peggy Galvin



Marie Salinardi



Jack Schultz



Joan Faller



Marie Zanon

1950

Union Contract Protects Members Called Up Armed Forces Duty

As the nation moves forward in its efforts to expand the Armed Forces it is important that members of Local 1-S who are eligible for the draft know their rights under the terms of the Union contract.

1) Any Union member with at least six months' seniority shall receive four (4) weeks' pay, at vacation rate, when he leaves the job for induction. This provision applies only to members who are *drafted*, recalled from inactive reserve status, or through the activation of a National Guard Unit.

2) Any summer or winter vacation pay which is due will be paid at the time of separation.

The contract also safeguards the jobs of Union members who

are drafted or who enlist into the Armed Forces.

President Sam Kovenetsky urged that, "all members about to go into the Armed Forces should come to the Union office to learn their rights under the contract and to re-arrange their Health Plan protection.

"It is our duty," the President said, "to see that every person gets all he is entitled to. Cooperation from the people involved will help us fulfill our responsibility.

"But beyond our responsibility is our desire to keep in touch with the men who are leaving. We want to know how they're doing and keep them posted on what we are doing."

KNOW YOUR ADMINISTRATOR

On the day after Labor Day, 1945, Mollie Grater was interviewed for, and assigned to her first Macy job — Squad Head in Men's Gloves.



Christmas. They got their money's worth out of me, and others like me, well in advance."

Two months after the holiday rush was over, Mollie was transferred to a staff employee status in 128 Upholstery department. On entering the department she joined Local 1-S, "which," she said, "was the first time I had ever belonged to a Union despite many years of varied business experience.

"I had always been interested in the labor movement. I had always felt that labor needed strong representation in its dealings with management and a strong political voice in its dealings with government. From the time I started to work I was aware of how badly people without representation or voice are exploited. I learned bitter lessons from my own experiences as an under-paid office worker. I learned from insecurity, from evening, Sunday and holiday overtime work without pay. From all these things I learned that we must not only have a union, but that our union must be STRONG!"

Because she was actively interested in all things that affected her as a Union member, Mollie wrote a sharp and biting letter to Macy's Mr. Atkinson, who at the time was the company's Labor Relations chief. Her letter protested Macy's

refusal to recognize Local 1-S as the elected representative of the people while the Union was engaged in legal battles with the RWDSU, from which it had just seceded. Mollie reminded him of how the company had 'sold the drivers down the river' by making arrangements that suited its own anti-labor convenience. As a result of her letter Mollie was called in and had an hour-long discussion with another company spokesman who tried, unsuccessfully, to convince her that the company was right. When she was asked, "What would you have done if you were the employer?" she answered with customary forthrightness, "I think the whole thing is very dishonest!"

With this background of sympathy and honesty Mollie dug into her Union work by becoming an active worker for Political Action in her department and played an important role in the campaigns against such anti-labor legislation as the Taft-Hartley Act and the Mundt-Nixon Bill.

Last year she was elected to the Union's Executive Board, and became a member of her Floor Committee. She was also elected Assistant Steward of her department. On the Executive Board she has continued her interest in Political Action by accepting a post on the Union's three-man Legislative Committee.

Mollie, by her activity in support of such Union projects as the Boattride and the coming Dance, has proved herself a top-notch promoter of unity through strength and fun. She says, "One of my main aims is to keep the members informed of all developments which concern them. When the people know what's going on they are not only able to fight better, but they win oftener."



First Local 1-S Bowling League gets under way as men and women roll for scores that set teams and team handicaps.

Welfare Board October 14th Dance Features Tops In Music And Fun

With less than two weeks to go for the Union's big dance at the Hotel Commodore there are still a few departments that have not paid for their tickets, according to recent word from Dance Committee Chairman Tony Puca.

George Romero's nationally known Rumba band and Maurice Scott's famous trumpet will share the spotlight and help make the Local 1-S dance one of the season's big successes.

A dash of hayseed and the cry of the caller will set the square dance enthusiasts to honoring their corner ladies and promenading home to the accompaniment of clapping hands and stomping feet.

The Union's Welfare Board,

Rheumatic Fever

(Continued from page 3)

the dentist get in touch with your doctor concerning the best course to follow.

4. It is most important that you who have had rheumatic fever do not fall into an attitude of worry, pessimism, and timidity. These may interfere with your health and contentment as much as the disease itself. Many who have had rheumatic fever do not have any further attacks; many have perfectly sound hearts, and thousands who have had the disease are active, useful, and contented citizens.

5. It is wise to place yourself under the care of an experienced doctor when you return home. See him during times of illness, particularly if joint pains or swelling, feverishness or loss of weight or strength occur, and for periodic check-ups even when you feel well. It has been learned that taking small doses of sulfa drugs after recovery from rheumatic fever, especially when you have streptococcal infection or at times of the

sponsor of the Dance, is confident that the members are going to go all-out in supporting the dance because they know the importance of their Welfare Fund. Said Welfare Board Chairman Joseph Buccalo, "No Union member in need has ever been turned away from the Welfare Board. We have given direct or indirect aid to thousands of men and women in the store. In order to continue our work of helping the needy we need money. That is why we are running this dance and that is why the dance MUST be a huge success."

BUY YOUR
DANCE TICKETS
TODAY!

year when such infections are prevalent, helps to prevent further rheumatic attacks; your doctor can advise you about this. He can help and counsel you in other ways also — in planning your work, for example. Some of you may continue your lives much as before, but others will need to live at a slower pace and find occupations requiring less strenuous exertion. For such patients, it is a good move to start early to learn a new trade or vocation, beginning to read or to work on correspondence courses even during the days of convalescence.

MEDICAL PLAN — for the name and address of the doctor nearest you CALL the Union Office — LA 4-9714 or Associated Physicians Medical Group — BU 8-4296 (Night or Day). Complete schedule of fees available upon request.

BLOOD BANK — If you need blood from the Blood Bank CALL Elizabeth Hammoned at the Union Office — LA 4-9714.

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At the Hotel Commodore on October 14th



Frances Tsakonas



Georgette DeLuzio



Carmen Fossé

Bowling League Ready To Roll

Local 1-S bowlers started their strikes and spares as the first round of the Union's tournament got under way with President Sam Kovenetsky in the lead off spot.

With prizes awaiting the best team and high scoring individual men and women there was a lot of enthusiasm on the first evening of play. Scores rolled at the first two meetings will be the basis on which teams are to be formed and handicaps assigned.

Local 1-S has reserved two alleys at the Bowling Recreation Arena, 270 - 8th Avenue (2nd St.) for Tuesday evenings at 8 P.M. The cost of three games per evening is \$1.20, including boy tips.

For further information about the tournament call the Union office.

TOY WORKERS CLINCH VICTORY

Members of 12 Department workers in the final round of their battle against management's mishandling of their grievance when they received the company's apology from Labor Relations Manager Fred Fischer and assurances that their problems would receive prompt attention in the future.

The apology and the assurances were secured at a meeting of Local 1-S Vice President Elizabeth Hammond, Shop Steward Dorothy Quinlan, Macy Vice President Louis Bernstein and Mr. Fischer which followed the department's walkout on a busy Saturday.

NEW OFFICIAL LOCAL 1-S EMBLEM

Every Union member should own and wear one of these smartly designed lapel pins in blue and gold. Emblems come with either safety catch or pin or screw back.

LET THE WORLD KNOW YOU BELONG TO LOCAL 1-S.
BUY YOUR EMBLEM TODAY — ONLY 70 CENTS AT THE UNION OFFICE

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